

STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Subcommittee

FROM: Chief William Hogan
Prepared By: Captain Sarah Benson

DATE: July 11, 2006

SUBJECT: Police Preparedness for Bele Chere

The Asheville Police Department is committed to working with other City Departments to provide a safe, enjoyable experience for all visitors, vendors/businesses, volunteers, and employees during the Bele Chere Festival.

- Police Department personnel are involved the Bele Chere Festival from the planning stages through the evaluation process of the event each year.
- The Department has a representative that participates on the Bele Chere Board that works with Park and Rec and AFD to ensure that police concerns/public safety issues are addressed during the planning stages for all aspects of the event.
- The Department is totally committed to the event in that all personnel will be available to work during the weekend of Bele Chere.
- Off duty personnel work the festival while the officers scheduled for duty maintain the normal level of police services throughout the City of Asheville.

2006 PLANS: The Department has developed a detailed operational plan for the Bele Chere Festival and will utilize the following resources:

- Patrol officers that are not scheduled to work in the Districts will be utilized during the three day festival.
- All police trainees will be assigned to the festival.
- Detectives will be assigned to the festival with the exception of the on call supervisor and two detectives.
- APD Reserve Officers will work the festival.
- Buncombe County Sheriff's Department has committed twenty deputies for both Friday and Saturday nights.
- The Sheriff's Office will also be providing a transport van on Friday and Saturday nights.
- ALE Agents – Officers from the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division will work the festival. Each ALE agent will be teamed up with an officer from APD. Alcoholic beverages will be sold and consumed openly on the city streets within the festival area. The ABC licensed establishments typically remain open after the festival hours, causing overcrowded conditions involving intoxicated patrons within confined spaces. These conditions results in a variety of alcohol and disorderly conduct violations that can be addressed by the undercover officers.

